

REMARKS

Summary

This Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed on May 4, 2006. Claims 1, 10, 12, 17, 23, 29, 31, 37, 46, 48, 53, 59, 65, and 67 are amended. Claims 11, 19-22, 28, 47, 55-58, and 64 are cancelled. Claims 1-10, 12-18, 23-27, 29-46, 48-54, 59-63, and 65-72 are pending.

Claims 33-36, and 69-72 are allowed. The Examiner has indicated that claims 9-14, 16, 22, 26-32, 45-50, 52, 58, and 62-68 contain allowable subject matter.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant filed a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on May 8, 2006. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed 1449 form with the next Official Communication.

Claims 1-8, 15, 17-21, 23-25, 37-44, 51, 53-57, and 59-61, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Xu (US 6,674,861).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 11. Claim 11 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter. Claim 12 is amended to depend from claim 11.

Claim 10, which contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form by the addition of the subject matter of claim 1.

Claim 17 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 21 and the allowable subject matter of claim 22. Claims 19-22 are cancelled.

Claim 23 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 28. Claim 28 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter. Claim 29 is amended to depend from claim 23.

Claim 31, which contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form by the addition of the subject matter of claim 23.

Claim 37 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 47. Claim 47 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter. Claim 48 is amended to depend from claim 37.

Claim 46, which contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form by the addition of the subject matter of claim 37.

Claim 53 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 57 and the allowable subject matter of claim 58. Claims 55-58 are cancelled.

Claim 59 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 64. Claim 64 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter. Claim 65 is amended to depend from claim 59.

Claim 67, which contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form by the addition of the subject matter of claim 59.

Accordingly, each of the independent claims is either allowed or amended herein to contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

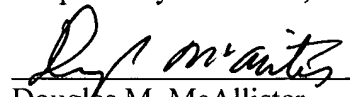
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the amended claims and the foregoing discussion. Applicant's silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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